

Summer
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Quick Strokes

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The Oregon scene - gradual transition, qwerty to Dvorak keyboard

Over signature of Bob Straub, governor of Oregon, we read, "... PERS ... converted its typists to Dvorak nine months ago. Typing speed has reportedly increased, on the average, by 16 percent for the six PERS typists."

This is from The Executive Insight, a State of Oregon management newsletter, for August, 1978. PERS is Public Employees' Retirement System.

The following departments are sending operators to the first of a series of retraining classes at Chemeketa Community College, Salem: Workers' Compensation, Revenue, Commerce, Health, and Adult and Family Services.

Agriculture, Executive, Forestry, Justice, Transportation, and Oregon State Correctional Institution have requested places in subsequent classes. Seven classes have already been scheduled, the last of these to begin in January, 1979. Each class planned for 15 typists, two hours per day for three weeks.

Where to shop for word-processing units with a built-in Dvorak keyboard

A survey made in July, 1978, by the Executive Department of the State of Oregon revealed the vendors CPT, NBI, and Vydec ready then with the Dvorak feature. Wang, Jacquard, Lanier, and DEC expect to have it available soon. Quick Strokes 13, Spring, 1977, mentions ECD, of Cambridge, MA, as a supplier of a Dvorak-keyboard minicomputer. QS 16, Winter, 1968, contains assurance that Four-Phase will supply a Dvorak keyboard.

The lag between order and delivery should be no greater than for a traditional arrangement. The price may be a bit higher. These items are always made to customer specifications.

Management analyst's view

Dear Philip:

Through Brad Lessley you undoubtedly know that the largest Dvorak effort with a state agency was the Public Employees' Retirement System, and that it was totally successful. Lacking other examples in state government it forms a model. From the material enclosed you can see we expect very soon to have a number of other models.

Sincerely,

Chris C. Christensen

Senior Management Analyst

Budget and Management Division

Executive Department, State of Oregon

Dvorak International Federation needs volunteer help

Footloose Dvorak-skilled operators who are also endowed with organizational and promotional skill should address Dvorak International Federation, attention Lou Ellen Weld, P. O. Box 13113, Salem, Oregon 97309. The federation is young but has an impressive potential.

Weld is secretary-treasurer. The president of DIF is Helen Baldwin, word-processing manager at Employee Benefits Insurance Co., Portland. Thurman Clark, manager at Public employees' Retirement Service, Portland, a state agency, is vice-president.

"The members are dedicated to promoting the Dvorak keyboard not just in Oregon but in all English-speaking nations," the membership application announces. The federation is out to prove that the Dvorak keyboard will, in fact, improve productivity by lessening fatigue for the typists, decrease the

(Continued on next page)

error factor, increase the typing speed and provide ease in training."

Benefits of membership are given as

1. Become involved in an organization that is "doing" something.
2. Receive the quarterly DIF Newsletter.
3. Have statistical data on Dvorak studies.
4. Have a listing of all word-processing and electric typewriter vendors who provide the option of Dvorak keyboard.
5. Have a listing of all educational institutions that provide classes in Dvorak keyboarding.
6. Have a placement service for Dvorak-keyboard-trained personnel.

Everybody is eligible - managers, operators, students, teachers, writers, publishers, vendors. The membership fee is \$10, to be mailed to Weld, along with the applicant's name, address, company affiliation, and position in the company.

Time spent in the service of DIF, with or without salary, will look good on any resume.

Where to shop for Dvorak-keyboard office model or portable typewriters

Steve Johnston, telephone 509-838-1862, handles SCM typewriters with the Smith-Corona variant of the Dvorak arrangement of characters. As a Speedy Keyboard application specialist, he can make delivery in four to six weeks after he receives the order and payment, on two models.

These are the Coronamatic 8000 and the Electra Automatic. The 8000 is an office model with all the wanted features including the encartridged ribbon.

The Electra Automatic is an economical electric portable with a keybuton carriage return.

Steve also handles other SCM portable models, deliverable in fourteen weeks with Dvorak two-hand, left one-hand, or right one-hand arrangements of the keyboard.

Steve has converted his personal

Ithaca dealer

Joro Precision Typewriter, 1045 Highland Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, offers "ASK American Simplified keyboards for productivity."

The proprietor, Joseph L. Rosenblum, is said to deplore the term "ASK" for the Dvorak variant which is known to the SCM corporation as "Keyboard 1776", and Quick Strokes agrees. Why should a customer have to ask for an arrangement that is clearly better, in productivity and by every other criterion, than any rival?

Rosenblum, in his former position as consultant on product planning for the Smith-Corona Group, was the designer, at the instance of company vice-president A. P. Wales, and with an assist from the late August Dvorak, of the 1776 keyboard, announced in 1976.

Telephone 607-257-7919.

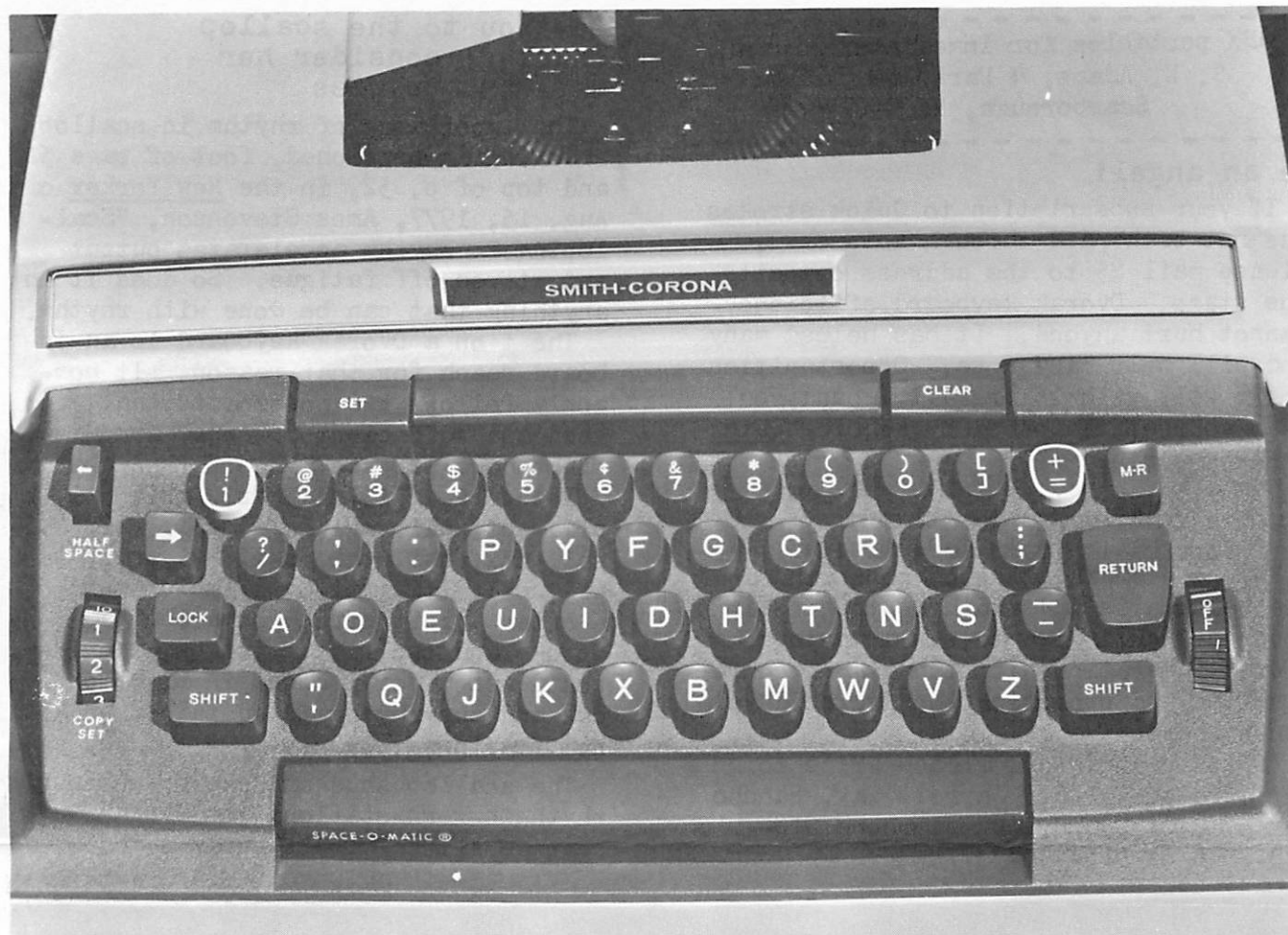
The Oregon Dvorak set of characters

The diagram for state purchases of word-processing units in Oregon shows $\frac{1}{4}$ over $\frac{1}{2}$ at ISO location E11, the second key from the right in the top row. (ISO is International Standardization Organization.) The draft proposed standard for Dvorak variant keyboard arrangements that is now under consideration by American National Standards Committee X4 (office machines and supplies) shows left square bracket over right square bracket on that key.

The draft proposal, however, states that the brackets are optional and may be replaced by any pair of special symbols. Thus, if the draft proposal is published as it was written in subcommittee, the Oregon Dvorak character set will not be nonstandard.

typewriter to Dvorak, and from the looks of his typescript he is a quick learner.

Educated at universities at Ann Arbor, Carbondale, and Boulder, Steve now lives in Spokane. His work experience has been in life insurance and in state and municipal government, in sales, data processing, and personnel management.



Smith-Corona Model 8000 office typewriter, available in 13" and 16" carriage sizes with American Simplified Keyboard (ASK). Delivery in eight to twelve weeks. All dealers in SCM Typewriters can supply it. Those listed below may have a machine with a Dvorak arrangement on hand for display and demonstration:

Massachusetts

Daniel Adachi
20 Carlton St., No. 3
Somerville 02143

Southern California

Banks Stationery and Typewriter Co.
805-966-4177

Roger Davis, 805-969-5375

Maine

Belmont Adams, 207-883-6835

Northern California

Steve Driggs, 415-431-3099

Upstate New York

Joro Precision Typewriter
Joe Posenblum, 607-257-7919

Phil Davis, 916-446-3377

New York City

Tytell Questioned Document Lab
Martin Tytell, 212-233-5333

State of Washington

Steve Johnston, 509-838-1862

Washington, DC

Washington Office Equipment Corp.
Ken Green, 202-338-6670

Iowa

Gerald Baker, 319-266-6205

 ASK portables for immediate shipment
 B. W. Adams, 4 Park Ave., RD 1,
 Scarborough, ME 04074

Be an angel!

If your subscription to Quick strokes has not been paid through Volume VI, please mail \$5 to the address opposite the stamp. Dvorak keyboard efficiency cannot hurt anyone. It has helped many and will help many more. Opportunities to do well with it are all around you. Keep yourself informed by keeping Quick Strokes coming.

In the offing, a Northern California Dvorak Federation

Yes, there are a few of us north of the Tehachapis and south of the Siskiyous who would like to see a regional Dvorak federation with the aim of coordinating and promoting the Dvorak development here.

If you would, too, please write to B. J. Lessley, 2619 Garrett Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, or telephone 916-363-2006 or 916-446-3377.

Go thou to the scallop shucker; consider her ways and be wise

The importance of rhythm in scallop shucking is mentioned, foot of page 51 and top of p. 52, in the New Yorker of Aug. 15, 1977, Ames Stevenson, "Scalloping." Rhythm accelerates output and staves off fatigue. So does it in anything that can be done with rhythm.

The i on a Dvorak keyboard is an in-board reach for that reason. It commonly follows two consonants that, for good and sufficient reasons, are right-hand strokes.

Note fli, gli, cli, fri, gri, cri, sli, sci, nli, ngi, nfi, sni, sti, shi, nti, nhi, thi, swi, lvi, rvi, wri, smi, lti, rti, cti, mbi.

After a left stroke or a thumb stroke and two right strokes, the in-board reach for i comes in right on cue and the rhythm is sustained and not fractured.

The scallop shucker sets up her own rhythmic work station; the Dvorak keyboard operator has it ready made.

Quick Strokes

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